(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Kerala has approved a plan to introduce pension scheme for farmers above the age of 60 years;

(b) if so, the names of other States, if any, who have similar plans under consideration;

(c) whether there is any proposal for such a plan/scheme under consideration of the Union Government also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Veterinary facilities in Andhra Pradesh

575. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the norms being followed for deciding number of veterinary doctors *vis-a-vis* livestock population;

(b) the number of veterinary doctors recommended for Andhra Pradesh under various livestock development related Central Scheme/ Programmes and whether recommended number of veterinary doctors for the State are compatible with the live stock population of the State;

(c) if so, dispensary/ polyclinic and hospital-wise present strength of veterinaries in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if not, the reasons for their shortage; and

(e) the number of additional veterinary dispensaries/ polyclinics/ hospitals proposed to be opened in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Government of Andhra Pradesh has prescribed the norms for establishment of new Veterinary Institutions through G.O. Ms no. 383, Food & Agri. (AH.III) Dept, dated 9th May, 1999 and partially modified in G.O. Ms. No. 675, Food & Agri. (AH.III) Deptt., 23rd September, 1991. The prescribed norms for opening of new Veterinary Institutions in the State are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) to (d) The number of Veterinary Doctors recommended for Andhra Pradesh under various livestock development related Central Schemes/Programmes are being made available by the State Government. There are 22 Polyclinics, 281 Veterinary Hospitals and 1833 Veterinary Dispensaries functioning in Andhra Pradesh, which are manned by Registered Veterinary Practitioners. Moreover, 3030 Rural Livestock Units are also functioning, which are manned by Paravets. Present strength of Veterinaries in. Veterinary Poly Clinics are 81; Veterinary Hospitals (224) and Veterinary Dispensaries (1373). (There is a marginal shortage of manpower in veterinary hospitals and dispensaries) Non-availability of sufficient number of Veterinary Graduates is the main reason for this. Some of the eligible veterinary graduates are opting for private sectors like banks, insurance companies,

Universities, Other NGO's Organizations due to better salary & perks, place of posting etc.

(e) Government of Andhra Pradesh has sanctioned three Super Specialty Veterinary Hospitals at Hyderabad, Vijayawada & Pulivendula, 3 new Veterinary Dispensaries (manned by Veterinary Graduates), 89 new Rural Livestock Units (manned by Paravets) and upgradation of 8 existing Rural Livestock Units into Veterinary Dispensaries.

Statement

Prescribed norms for opening of new Veterinary Institutions in the State of Andhra Pradesh

1. The Livestock population of the main village and neighbouring villages within a radious of 5 KMs should be about 5000.

2. The villages or Gram Panchayat should provide initially rent free building and within one year permanent building worth Rs. 1.5 lakhs to Rs. 2.0 lakhs should be constructed and donated to the Department.

3. The villagers or Gram Panchayats should donate the furniture required for the institution.

4. Preference is given in a district to such mandals, which do not have more than one Livestock Supervisory Unit (*i.e.* manned by a Graduate) or one Rural Livestock Unit (*i.e.* manned by a Paravet).

Cultivation of fruits and vegetables

†576.SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers can earn 5 to 8 per cent more profit by growing vegetables and fruits;

(b) whether it is very essential to have better roads, irrigation, agricultural technology and chain of cold stores for vegetables and fruits farming;

(c) if so, whether Government plans to provide these facilities to farmers;

(d) whether Government proposes to educate rural farmers regarding vegetables and fruits related agricultural technologies; and

(e) the details of the total financial help and subsidy provided or proposed to be provided to farmers till now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government is providing rural connectivity through Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana in the rural areas of the country. Several Schemes exist for providing irrigation facilities to the farmers. In addition, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Micro-irrigation for adopting Drip and Sprinkler irrigation.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.